

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 062638
ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 SSO-00 FPC-01 EB-08 TRSE-00
L-03 IGA-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 COME-00
INT-05 /042 R

DRAFTED BY LA/CAR:WWRHODES/KAR
APPROVED BY LA/CAR:WBWHEELER
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OFDA:CHOLMES (DRAFT)

-----212342Z 030668 /62

O 212304Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, HA

SUBJECT: POWER SHORTAGE

REF: STATE 055218

1. AMBASSADOR SALOMON TELEPHONED DEPARTMENT AT 11:35 MARCH 21 TO SAY HE WAS TRANSMITTING A DIPLOMATIC NOTE REQUESTING USG HELP IN FINDING EMERGENCY ELECTRIC GENERATING EQUIPMENT. THE NOTE WAS DELIVERED ABOUT 1:30 P.M. TEXT FOLLOWS: BEGIN QUOTE: "THE EMBASSY OF HAITI PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE HONORABLE STATE DEPARTMENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND HAS THE HONOR TO CALL ITS ATTENTION TO AN URGENT PROBLEM CONFRONTED BY THE COUNTRY IN THE AREA OF ELECTRIC ENERGY.

-THE GOVERNMENT OF HAITI HAS MADE CONSTANT EFFORTS TO INCREASE PRODUCTION OF ELECTRICITY AND STATISTICAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 062638

FIGURES INDICATE THAT PRODUCTION HAS MORE THAN DOUBLED IN 10 YEARS TO ATTAIN THE 151.2 MILLION KWH LEVEL IN 1975. BUT BY THAT YEAR PRODUCTION WAS WAY BEHIND CURRENT DEMAND AND NEED OF EXPANSION OF SMALL INDUSTRIES, ASSEMBLY PLANTS AND NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AREAS.

"TO COPE WITH THAT SITUATION THE GOVERNMENT OF HAITI HAS

UNDERTAKEN A COMPLETE SURVEY OF THE HYDRO-ELECTRIC RESOURCES OF THE COUNTRY AND SIGNED WITH THE WORLD BANK A CREDIT AGREEMENT TO FINANCE A NEW THERMIC PLANT AT A COST OF 18 MILLION, THE COUNTER PART FUNDS FROM HAITI BEING 2 MILLION. THE COMPLETION IS FORSEEN FOR THE END OF THIS YEAR IF ALL GOES ACCORDING TO PLANS.

"IN THE MEAN TIME THE ACTUAL OUT-LOOK OF ELECTRIC ENERGY HAS WORSENED SINCE PRODUCTION HAS PLUMETED TO ONLY 35 PER CENT WITH THE DROUGHT WHICH EFFECTED THE CENTRAL PART OF THE COUNTRY DURING THE LAST 5 MONTHS, BRINGING THE WATER LEVEL AT THE PELIGRE ARTIBONITE DAM BELOW THE CRISIS LINE.

"THIS SITUATION RESULTED IN AN OVERALL RATONING TO THREE HOURS OF POWER CONSUMPTION IN URBAN AREAS AT THE PEAK TIME, AND THE REDUCTION TO 50 PER CENT CAPACITY OF ALL INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS WITH THE EFFECTS ON EMPLOYMENT, ECONOMIC PRODUCTION, AND QUALITY OF LIFE AND SECURITY IN GENERAL.

"IT IS THE REASON WHY THE GOVERNMENT OF HAITI SOLICITS THE URGENT ASSISTANCE OF THE HONORABLE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO HELP FIND EMERGENCY ELECTRIC POWER EQUIPMENTS.

"THE GOVERNMENT OF HAITI HOPES TO BE ABLE TO FIND TWO GENERATING POWER PLANTS WITH A CAPACITY OF 6.000 KW H EACH OR THREE SMALLER UNITS WITH 4.500 KWH CAPACITY.
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PAGE 03 STATE 062638

"THE EMBASSY OF HAITI WILL APPRECIATE, IN ALL ITS VALUE THE KIND ATTENTION WHICH WILL BE RESERVED TO THAT URGENT REQUEST AND WHILE EXPRESSING ITS GRATITUDE, TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE HONORABLE STATE DEPARTMENT THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION." END QUOTE.

2. AS HAS BEEN STATED ON THE PHONE WITH EMBASSY, OFDA CANNOT PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN THIS AREA UNTIL AN ASSESSMENT HAS BEEN MADE BY OFDA SPONSORED ENGINEERS AND UNTIL A DISASTER HAS BEEN DECLARED BY THE AMBASSADOR. OFDA WILL THEN ONLY FUND GENERATORS IF CRITICAL NEED IS DETERMINED, SUCH AS THE NEED FOR A GENERATOR TO POWER A HOSPITAL. MOREOVER, GENERATORS WILL BE PROVIDED ON A SHORT TERM BASIS.

3. AS NOTED IN OFDA CONFERENCE CALL WITH AMBASSADOR TODAY, EMBASSY COMMENTS REQUESTED RE: CONTENTS DIPLOMATIC NOTE IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER AMBASSADOR DECLARES EMERGENCY.

VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am

Channel Indicators: n/a

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Concepts: DIPLOMATIC NOTES, ELECTRIC GENERATORS

Control Number: n/a

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Decaption Note:

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Disposition Approved on Date:

Disposition Case Number: n/a

Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009

Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a

Disposition Reason:

Disposition Remarks:

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Litigation Codes:

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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a

Original Previous Classification: n/a

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Status: NATIVE

Subject: POWER SHORTAGE

TAGS: ENRG, EQIP, HA, US

To: PORT AU PRINCE

Type: TE

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Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld

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22 May 2009

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